

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 30

By Sanderson

A RESOLUTION to commend Joseph Atnip for his honorable and astute service as president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference 2016-2017.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy attorney is Joseph “Joe” Atnip of Greenfield, who was elected to serve as the District Public Defender for the twenty-seventh judicial district, which is comprised of Obion and Weakley counties, in 1990, and who has served the citizens of that district with distinction for twenty-six years. Mr. Atnip is the first and only elected district public defender for the twenty-seventh judicial district; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election as district public defender, Mr. Atnip engaged in private practice in the cities of Kenton and Dresden, practiced with the Honorable Roy Herron, former member of the Tennessee State Senate, and served as assistant district public defender from September 1986 through July 1987; and

WHEREAS, Joe Atnip was born in Henderson in 1955; he graduated from Germantown High School in 1973 and earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin with high honors in 1979. Mr. Atnip obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence at Vanderbilt University School of Law in 1982, and he was admitted to the bar by order of the Tennessee Supreme Court that same year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Atnip served in the United States Navy from 1977 to 1979 and was a member of the Ceremonial Guard in Washington, D.C.; he is known across Northwest

Tennessee for his impressive rifle drill routine, which he performs in local schools every Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a leader by his peers and colleagues, Joe Atnip is currently serving his first tenure as president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, having previously served as vice president, secretary-treasurer, and member of the executive committee and the audit committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, Mr. Atnip has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to this State; and

WHEREAS, Joe Atnip epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Atnip serves as city judge for the Town of Greenfield and the Town of Sharon; he is a longstanding member of the Greenfield Rotary Club and has served as the club's president. He also taught for a semester at the University of Tennessee at Martin as an adjunct professor and is an avid history buff; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Joe Atnip has actively mentored in local schools, assisting the Junior Beta Club in state competitions and lecturing in high school physics, and participates as an actor in the cemetery walk during the annual Dresden Iris Festival; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Atnip has resided in Greenfield since 1985, and he raises a large organically grown garden, which includes heirloom tomatoes, fruit trees, and his beloved blackberries and blueberries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Atnip is an accomplished beekeeper who generously shares his bounty with friends and family; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Atnip is a former pastor of Kimery Road Church of Christ, and he has faithfully attended Greenfield Church of Christ for thirty-three years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Atnip is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Kathy, whom he married in 1983, and their children: Katie, a pediatrician and Oklahoma resident, and Becky, a ranch manager in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Joe Atnip is also grateful for his witty, entertaining grandchildren, Lloyd and Dale; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Joseph "Joe" Atnip has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar and bench and his community alike, bringing out the best in everyone he meets; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Joseph Atnip for his meritorious service to the good people of the State of Tennessee as president of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference 2016-2017 and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.